

SECRETARY'S RECORD, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska) Application No. 911-042.35
Public Service Commission, on)
its own motion, seeking to)
administer funding for public) ORDER APPROVING FUNDING
safety answering points for)
the implementation and)
provision of Enhanced Wireless)
911 service: Burt County.) Entered: October 20, 2020

BY THE COMMISSION:

On or about July 27 2020, the Burt County Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP") filed a request to use set aside funds for the following purposes: (i) to purchase call handling equipment, connectivity and Geographic Information Systems ("GIS") data integration and edge-matching services in order to join a new PSAP region to be known as "MidEast Regional 911,"¹ (ii) to pay GeoComm for an interface between its Dispatch Map system and the Burt County Computer Assisted Dispatch ("CAD") system² and (iii) to purchase a new logging recorder from Northland Business Systems.

The Wireless Enhanced 911 Advisory Board considered the request at its August 19, 2020, meeting and recommended the request be approved.

O P I N I O N A N D F I N D I N G S

Pursuant to the 911 Service System Act³ (the "Act"), the Commission is responsible for allocating funding to PSAPs from the 911 Service System Fund (the "Fund").⁴ The Fund consists primarily of 911 surcharges collected by wireless carriers from wireless service customers.⁵ The Act provides that money in the fund may be used to pay for costs that are determined by the Public Service Commission ("Commission") to be eligible for funding, including costs incurred by PSAPs for acquisition, installation, maintenance,

¹ MidEast Regional 911 will also include the Dodge County and Colfax County PSAPs as host locations.

² The purchase of the CAD system and its interface to the GeoComm mapping system was approved by Commission Order entered May 20, 2020. The current Burt County funding request describes this purchase as "the GeoComm side of the joint interface." See, *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Burt County*, Application No. 911-042.35 ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (May 19, 2020).

³ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1001 to 86-1029.03.

⁴ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-1025(5).

⁵ See, e.g., Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 86-456, 86-456.01, 86-457, 86-459, 86-466, 86-904 and 86-1028.

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and operation of telecommunications equipment and services required for the provision of 911 service.⁶ PSAPs may set aside up to seventy-five percent (75%) of their annual funding allocation for future purchases of equipment and software.⁷

Joining the Region

In order to join MidEast Regional 911, the Burt County PSAP will buy new VIPER call handling equipment from CenturyLink Business at a cost of \$92,155.14, including first year support and maintenance. Burt County will also pay a further \$3,440.24 in shared regional first year maintenance costs. In addition, Burt County will pay CenturyLink \$2,280.20 for the first year cost of its connectivity to the region. Finally, Burt County will pay GeoComm \$2,047.00 for regional GIS data set and edge matching services in order to integrate the Burt County data with the rest of the new region's GIS data.

PSAP expenses that are incurred in order to join a regional network of PSAPs are not subject to the wireless/wireline ratio, and may be fully paid using set-aside funds.⁸ The total amount of costs eligible costs requested by Burt County to join MidEast Regional 911 is \$99,922.58.

Mapping System Interface with CAD System

Burt County has requested to use \$6,226.00 of set-aside funds to pay for an interface from its GeoComm mapping system to its CAD system. This type of interface is an eligible use of set-aside funds.⁹ However, Burt County's request includes \$3,556.00 for second and third year licensing costs. Set-aside funds may not be used to pay future years of multi-year maintenance, service,

⁶ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-1025(5)(c).

⁷ *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, to implement provisions of LB 1222 [2006] and to establish a permanent funding mechanism for wireless enhanced 911 service*, Application No. 911-019/PI-118, FINAL ORDER ADOPTING MODEL AND APPLICATION PROCESS (Feb. 23, 2010).

⁸ *See, e.g., In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Hitchcock County*, Application No. 911-042.17 ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (May 14, 2019).

⁹ *See, e.g., In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Custer County*, Application No. 911-042.47 ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (May 21, 2019).

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support or licensing agreements. Any such future costs must be paid from a PSAP's annually allocated funds or other sources.¹⁰ After deleting the second and third year licensing costs, the remaining cost of the interface is \$2,670.00.

Furthermore, the requested interface costs are shared costs that are subject to the wireless/wireline ratio. The wireless/wireline ratio for Burt County for the 2020-2021 funding year is 86 percent. Therefore, the amount of the interface costs that are eligible to be paid with set-aside funds is \$2,296.20.

Logging Recorder

The Burt County PSAP also seeks authority to use set-aside funds to purchase a new logging recorder server ("Logger") from Northland Business Systems. The total cost of the logger is \$15,573.00.

A Logger is mixed use equipment that may be used for other purposes in addition to recording 911 calls.¹¹ 911 funds may only be used to pay the 911 portion of mixed use equipment.¹² The Burt County PSAP reports that approximately 40 percent of the logger's use will be devoted to 911 purposes, while the remaining 60 percent of use will be for non-911 purposes. Therefore, 40 percent of \$15,573.00, or \$6,229.20, is the amount eligible for funding using 911 funds.

In addition, the cost of the Logger is a shared cost that is subject to the Burt County wireless/wireline ratio of 86 percent. Therefore, the amount of set-aside funds that may be applied to the purchase of the Logger is 86 percent of \$6,229.20, or \$5,357.11.

¹⁰ See, e.g., *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Dundy County*, Application No. 911-042.45, ORDER APPROVING APPLICATION (Dec. 4, 2018).

¹¹ *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: City of Norfolk*, Application No. 911-042.59, ORDER APPROVING FUNDING (December 3, 2019).

¹² *In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to administer funding for public safety answering points for the implementation and provision of Enhanced Wireless 911 service: Saline County*, Application No. 911-042.19, ORDER APPROVING USE OF FUNDING, IN PART (May 7, 2013).

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Based upon the request for funding, supporting documentation, and in consideration of the recommendation of the Advisory Board, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the costs requested are eligible for funding as costs incurred for the purchase, installation, maintenance or operation of telecommunications equipment and telecommunications services required for the provision of 911 service.

As stated above, the amount eligible for funding using set-aside funds is as follows: \$99,922.58 for regionalization costs, \$2,296.20 for the mapping system interface and \$5,357.11 for the Logger. Therefore, the total amount of costs that are eligible to be funded using set-aside funds is \$107,575.89.

Based upon the above, the Commission finds that use of set-aside funds by Burt County should be approved in an amount not to exceed **\$107,575.89**.



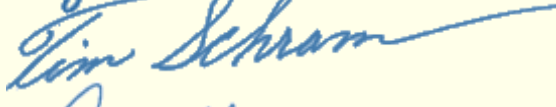

O R D E R


IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that funding for Burt County is hereby approved in an amount up to **\$107,575.89**.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska this 20th day of October, 2020.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:


Chair

ATTEST:


Executive Director